

pol·y·mer·ic

pol·y·mer·ic (pŏl'ə-mēr'ik) *adjective*

Of, relating to, or consisting of a polymer.

— **pol'y·mer'i·cal·ly** *adverb*

— **po·lym'er·ism** (pə-līm'ə-rīz'əm, pŏl'ə-mə-) *noun*

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Electronic version licensed from INSO Corporation; further reproduction and distribution restricted in accordance with the Copyright Law of the United States. All rights reserved.

vi·nyl

vi·nyl (vī' nəl) *noun*

1. The univalent chemical radical CH_2CH , derived from ethylene.
2. Any of various compounds containing the vinyl radical, typically highly reactive, easily polymerized, and used as basic materials for plastics.
3. Any of various typically tough, flexible, shiny plastics, often used for coverings and clothing.

[vin(i)- + -yl.]

— **vi·nyl'ic** (-nīl' ĭk) *adjective*

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Electronic version licensed from INSO Corporation; further reproduction and distribution restricted in accordance with the Copyright Law of the United States. All rights reserved.

plas·tic

plas·tic (plās'tīk) *adjective*

1. Capable of being shaped or formed: *plastic material such as clay*. See synonyms at malleable.
2. Relating to or dealing with shaping or modeling: *the plastic art of sculpture*.
3. Having the qualities of sculpture; well-formed: "*the astonishing plastic beauty of the chorus girls*" (Frank Harris).
4. Giving form or shape to a substance: *the plastic forces that create and wear down a mountain range*.
5. Easily influenced; impressionable.
6. Made of a plastic or plastics: *a plastic garden hose*.
7. *Physics*. Capable of undergoing continuous deformation without rupture or relaxation.
8. *Biology*. Capable of building tissue; formative.
9. Marked by artificiality or superficiality; synthetic: *a TV host's plastic smile; a plastic world of fad, hype, and sensation*.
10. *Informal*. Of or obtained by means of credit cards: *plastic money*.

noun

1. Any of various organic compounds produced by polymerization, capable of being molded, extruded, cast into various shapes and films, or drawn into filaments used as textile fibers.
2. Objects made of plastic.
3. *Informal*. A credit card or credit cards: *would accept cash or plastic in payment*.

[Latin *plasticus*, from Greek *plastikos*, from *plastos*, molded, from *plassein*, to mold.]

— plas'ti·cal·ly *adverb*

— plas·tic'i·ty (plās-tīs'i-tē) *noun*

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Electronic version licensed from INSO Corporation; further reproduction and distribution restricted in accordance with the Copyright Law of the United States. All rights reserved.

ep·ox·y

ep·ox·y (ĭ-pŏk'sē) *noun*

plural ep·ox·ies

1. Any of various usually thermosetting resins capable of forming tight cross-linked polymer structures characterized by toughness, strong adhesion, and low shrinkage, used especially in surface coatings and adhesives.
2. See epoxide.

noun, attributive

Often used to modify another noun: *epoxy glues*; *epoxy resins*.

verb, transitive

ep·ox·ied, ep·ox·y·ing, ep·ox·ies

To fasten together with epoxy.

[ep(i)- + oxy(gen).]

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Electronic version licensed from INSO Corporation; further reproduction and distribution restricted in accordance with the Copyright Law of the United States. All rights reserved.

pol·y·es·ter

pol·y·es·ter (pŏl'ē-ēs'tər, pŏl'ē-ēs'tər) *noun*

1. Any of numerous synthetic polymers produced chiefly by reaction of dibasic acids with dihydric alcohols and used primarily as light, strong, weather-resistant resins in boat hulls, swimming pools, textile fibers, adhesives, and molded parts.
2. A wrinkle-resistant fabric of fibers made from any of these resins.

— **pol'y·es'ter** *adjective*

— **pol'y·es'ter-i-fi-ca'tion** (-ə-fī-kā'shən) *noun*

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Electronic version licensed from INSO Corporation; further reproduction and distribution restricted in accordance with the Copyright Law of the United States. All rights reserved.

u·re·thane

u·re·thane (yŏŏr'ĭ-thān') also **u·re·than** (-thān') *noun*

1. A colorless or white crystalline compound, $\text{CO}(\text{NH}_2)\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5$, used in organic synthesis and formerly as a palliative treatment for leukemia.
2. Any of several esters, other than the ethyl ester, of carbamic acid.

[ur(o)-¹ + eth(yl) + -ane.]

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Electronic version licensed from INSO Corporation; further reproduction and distribution restricted in accordance with the Copyright Law of the United States. All rights reserved.

tan¹

tan (tăn) *verb*

~~tanned, tan·ning, tans~~ *verb, transitive*

1. To convert (hide) into leather, as by treating with tannin.
2. To make brown by exposure to the sun.
3. *Informal.* To thrash; beat.

verb, intransitive

To become brown or tawny from exposure to sun.

noun

1. *Color.* A light or moderate yellowish brown to brownish orange.
2. The brown color that sun rays impart to the skin.
3. Tanbark.
4. **a.** Tannin. **b.** A solution derived from tannin.

adjective

tan·ner, tan·nest

1. *Color.* Light or moderate yellowish-brown to brownish-orange.
2. Having a suntan.
3. Used in or relating to tanning.

[Middle English *tannen*, from Old English **tannian*, from Medieval Latin *tannāre*, from *tannum*, tanbark, probably of Celtic origin.]

— **tan' nish** *adjective*

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Electronic version licensed from INSO Corporation; further reproduction and distribution restricted in accordance with the Copyright Law of the United States. All rights reserved.

tan·nin

tan·nin (tăn'ĭn) *noun*

1. Tannic acid.
2. Any of various chemically different substances capable of promoting tanning.

[French, from *tan*, crushed oak bark, from Old French, from Medieval Latin *tannum*. See *tan*¹.]

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Electronic version licensed from INSO Corporation; further reproduction and distribution restricted in accordance with the Copyright Law of the United States. All rights reserved.